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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

THE SITUATION OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN HAITI

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/48/L.57

Fifteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/48/79), submitted in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/48/L.57, relating to the situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti.

2. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's statement that the General Assembly, in its resolution 47/20 B of 20 April 1993, approved the Secretary-General's recommendation for United Nations participation, jointly with the Organization of American States (OAS), in the International Civilian Mission to Haiti (MICIVIH). For the 1992-1993 biennium the Assembly had approved an appropriation of $13,183,500 under the regular budget and during the 1994-1995 biennium, for the period from 1 January to 31 March 1994, the Assembly approved an appropriation of $4.0 million under section 4 (Peace-keeping operations and special missions) of the regular budget.

3. On the basis of assumptions outlined in paragraphs 3 to 5 of his statement, the Secretary-General estimates that the additional requirements at full cost for the extension of the mandate of MICIVIH to 31 March 1995 would amount to $18,707,700 net of staff assessment, of which $16,596,300 relates to personnel costs such as salaries, fees, travel and related allowances and the balance ($2,111,400) to operational costs such as premises, vehicles and communications equipment (ibid., para. 8). However, as indicated in paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's statement, owing to the low level of operations during the

period from 1 January to 31 March 1994, it is estimated that $2,558,800 out of the $4 million would be available to offset part of the additional requirements for the extension of the mission through 31 March 1995.

4. The Committee notes from paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's statement that the United Nations staffing component for the mission currently includes one post at the under-secretary-general level for the Special Envoy and one at the D-2 level for the Director of Human Rights, 186 other international staff (including 135 human rights observers) and 254 local staff. As reflected in annex III to the statement, and as confirmed to the Advisory Committee, 116 staff are already on board. The deployment schedule is indicated in annex III.

5. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 6 of the statement that MICIVIH had suspended operations in Haiti since October 1993 because of the deteriorating security situation and had evacuated mission staff (except for a small core group) to Santo Domingo. The Committee further notes that between January and April 1994, 38 United Nations and OAS observers had returned to the capital and that "no serious incidents having been noted since the resumption of the observers' activities, security measures were relaxed, and, on 1 March 1994, the Mission moved from phase IV (maximum security) to phase III". Notwithstanding these facts, the Advisory Committee believes that the situation is still uncertain and doubts whether all of the staff would be deployed as envisaged according to the deployment schedule indicated in annex III to the Secretary-General's statement. It is therefore doubtful whether all of the staffing and operational resources which have been requested would be required during the period specified in the statement.

6. As indicated in paragraph 15 of the statement, the Secretary-General is of the view that, while not directly related to the maintenance of peace and security, the activities outlined in the statement nevertheless are of an extraordinary nature and should thus be dealt with outside the procedures related to the contingency fund, as provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213.

7. The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should the Assembly adopt draft resolution A/48/L.57, an additional expenditure in an amount of up to $15,692,000 would be required under section 4 of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. However, the Committee believes that because of the circumstances in the area of operation, it is not possible at this stage to indicate the exact level of the additional appropriation that might be necessary. Such additional appropriation as may be necessary will be considered by the Advisory Committee during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

8. Pending such consideration, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be authorized to enter into commitments of up to $15.7 million for the period up to 31 March 1995.